

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185422

RABAT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EAID, UV

SUBJECT: MOOSE BILATERALS IN UPPER VOLTA

- -

1. ISSUE -- RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: UPPER VOLTA FULLY RETURNED TO CIVILIAN
RULE ON MAY 28 WHEN GENERAL LAMIZANA DEFEATED HIS
PRESIDENTIAL OPPONENT, MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO, WITH A HEFTY
12 PERCENT MARGIN OF THE NATIONAL VOTE. VOTER
PARTICIPATION WAS 43.5 PERCENT. UPPER VOLTA'S NEW
CONSTITUTION LEGALLY RECOGNIZES ONLY THREE POLITICAL
PARTIES: THE MAJORITY UDV/RDA, THE UNDD, AND THE UPV.
FORCES IN THE 57-MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAVE SPLIT
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INTO THE PRO-GOVERNMENT "UNION DES FORCES PROGRESSISTES"
(29 DEPUTIES) AND THE OPPOSITION "FORCES UNIS DE
;-OPPOSITION" (28 DEPUTIES). ELECTIONS WERE REMARKABLY
FAIR BY AFRICAN STANDARDS; HOWEVER, ONE PRO-GOVERNMENT
SEAT IS CONTESTED BECAUSE OF CHARGES OF ELECTION
IRREGULARITIES. AFTER A SIX WEEK HIATUS IN WHICH LAMIZANA
ATTEMPTED TO INDUCE SOME MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION TO

JOIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, A NEW CABINET WAS FINALLY ANNOUNCED JULY 16 COMPOSED ONLY OF PRO-GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS. EIGHT OF THE NINETEEN CABINET MINISTERS WERE RETAINED FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING

FOMIN KARGOUGOU WHOM YOU MET LAST FALL DURING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK. THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS REDUCED CHANCES CONSIDERABLY THAT THE MILITARY MIGHT INTERVENE AS IT DID IN 1966 AND 1974 TO END GOVERNMENT PARALYSIS.

TALKING POINTS:

-- WE APPLAUD THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE IN UPPER VOLTA AND THE SINGULAR ROLE PLAYED BY PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. THESE EVENTS WERE FOLLOWED CLOSELY IN WASHINGTON.

-- WE HAVE NOTED THE REFUSAL OF OPPOSITION FORCES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

WE HOPE THAT UPPER VOLTA'S NEW DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE A LONG AND DURABLE LIFE. UPPERVOLTA'S EXPERIENCE IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. WHAT CAN THE U.S. DO TO REINFORCE THE TREND OF RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE IN WEST AFRICA?

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2. ISSUE -- U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO UPPER VOLTA.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: AID'S GOAL IN UPPER VOLTA IS TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE -- SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD, A LESSENING OF THE INTERNAL ISOLATION, READY AVAILABILITY OF POTABLE WATER, AN IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL BASE AND INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THESE OBJECTIVES ARE BEING SOUGHT THROUGH THE MULTI-DONOR SUPPORTED PROGRAM OF THE CLUB DU SAHEL, FOLLOWING SAHELIAN PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE CILSS. AID PROGRAM LEVELS FOR FY 1978, FY 1979 AND FY 1980 ARE ESTIMATED AT \$5.8, \$10.2 AND \$18.0 MILLIONS RESPECTIVELY. THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM LEANS HEAVILY TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. PROJECTS INCLUDE A MAJOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN THE EASTERN ORD, FEEDER ROAD BUILDING IN THIS SAME AREA, A VILLAGE LIVESTOCK PROJECT, VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS FREED FROM RIVER BLINDNESS, AND ASSISTANCE TO RURAL WOMEN TO OBTAIN CREDIT FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES (E.G. POULTRY RAISING, GRAIN MILLS). NEW STARTS IN FY 78-79 INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL VILLAGE WELLS FOR POTABLE WATER, A FORESTRY AND LAND USE PROJECT,

AND A PROJECT TO TRAIN AGRICULTURAL PERSONNEL FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

TALKING POINTS:

-- CILSS NATIONAL COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN CREATED IN EACH OF THE SAHELIAN STATES TO COORDINATE NATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. HOW IS THE CILSS NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN UPPER VOLTA WORKING OUT?

-- WE NOTE THAT THE GOUV PLACES HIGH PRIORITY ON ACHIEVING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ON DEVELOPING RURAL WATER SUPPLY, DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS WHICH CONCORD WELL
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WITH AID'S OWN OBJECTIVES.

3. AGRICULTURAL PRICING POLICY AND OFNACER.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: THE INABILITY OF THE VOLTAN NATIONAL CEREALS OFFICE (OFNACER) TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INCENTIVES TO FARMERS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION HAS BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN UPPER VOLTA'S CHRONIC FOOD DEFICIT. OFNACER HAS SO FAR FAILED IN ITS ROLE AS A MARKET INTERVENTION MECHANISM TO KEEP PRICES STABILIZED. HOWEVER, AFTER MUCH DONOR URGING, OFNACER HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN REORGANIZED AND IT IS BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON A NEW GRAIN PRICING POLICY. IT HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING DROUGHT RELIEF. IT IS INCREASING THE AUTHORITY OF ITS ADVISOR, PROVIDED BY THE ENTENTE FUND, IN MATTERS OF MANAGEMENT AND POLICY MAKING.

TALKING POINTS:

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPLAUDS THIS NEW INITIATIVE OF THE GOUV IN RESTRUCTURING OFNACER.

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING 18,058 METRIC TONS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE GOUV THIS YEAR UNDER AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM MANAGED BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

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